Pashmina wool

399. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how much Pashmina wool is collected in Ladakh region;

(b) how much of this Pashmina wool is processed in Ladakh;

(c) how much money Lakadh generated by selling this Pashmina wool; and

(d) whether there are any projects or plans to help Ladakhis to value add to their Pashmina wool; if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) An estimated 42 MT of Pashmina wools is produced in Ladakh region.

(b) It is estimated that only a nominal amount of about 5% of the' above quantity is processed in Ladakh region.

(c) Ladakh generates approximately Rs. 6.28 crores @ Rs. 1500/-per kg (at 2002-03 price) by sale of Pashmina wool.

(d) The Ministry of Textiles have the following two programmes aimed at value addition to Pashmina wool in Ladakh region:—

(i) A UNDP assisted Pashmina Development Project, which has a component *inter alia* for setting up of Common Facility Centre for scouring, dehairing and carding of Pashmina wool. The budget for the Project is Rs. 825 lakh.

(ii) Pashmina Development Programme under the Integrated Wool Improvement Programme to be implemented in the 10th Five Year Plan, which has components for improvement and expansion in the production of Pashmina, rams exchange, formation of breeders association, training, health coverage, fodder development banks, etc. An amount of Rs. 400 lakhs has been budgeted in the 10th Plan for the programme.